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SUBJECT: NICARAGUA'S MOST WANTED PART I: THE CRIMES OF
DANIEL ORTEGA AND HIS FAMILY

11. (SBU) In preparation for the November 2006 national elections in Nicaragua, post has developed three "rap sheets" on the records of Daniel Ortega, the Sandinista party (FSLN) and Arnaldo Aleman, highlighting their systematic crimes and abuses. The rap sheets contain short summaries of the crimes and abuses committed, as well as details on the sources of the information. Post intends to use the information from these rap sheets in discussions with domestic and international interlocutors as a means of reminding Nicaraguan voters and others of the true character of Aleman, Ortega, and the Sandinistas. While the summaries themselves are unclassified, some of the sources of information are SBU. Post will distribute the summaries to appropriate contacts, but not the sources. Post is sending both the summaries and

the sources to the Department and other Washington agencies for similar uses. This cable focuses on the crimes of Daniel Ortega and his family. Septels will cover the FSLN and Aleman.

CRIMES OF DANIEL ORTEGA AND HIS FAMILY

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The Murder of Jean-Paul Genie by the bodyguards of Humberto Ortega

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12. (U) In October 1990, security guards working for Humberto Ortega, Daniel,s brother and the former FSLN Army Commander, used automatic weapons to kill Jean-Paul Genie (age 16) when Genie tried to pass Humberto,s convoy on what is now the Masaya Highway. The FSLN used its control of the judiciary and the police to cover up the crime, and no one was ever held accountable for Genie,s murder.

13. (SBU) Sources: media accounts of the 1990 shooting of Jean Paul Genie, personal testimony by Raymond Genie (the father of Jean Paul), legal documents filed by the Genie family in Nicaragua and with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

Ordering of Torture, Killings, and Mass Murder

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14. (U) Daniel and Humberto Ortega participated in the FSLN leadership council that collectively ordered the arrest and torture of thousands of people at prisons and prison camps all over Nicaragua. The largest torture camp for political prisoners was in what is now the free trade zone near

Managua,s airport. The Ortega brothers and their FSLN associates also ordered numerous murders and disappearances, including the killings of hundreds of Miskitos on the Atlantic coast and the internment of thousands more in concentration camps in 1981 and 1982.

¶5. (SBU) Sources: thousands of complaints filed with the CPDH human rights organization throughout the 1980s, testimony of Miskito survivors and torture victims, annual State Department Human Rights reports, documents on investigations carried out by the IACHR during the 1980s.

Rape and Sexual Abuse of Step-daughter

¶6. (U) In 1998 Zoilamerica Narvaez, the daughter of Rosario Murillo and the step-daughter of Daniel Ortega, made allegations that Ortega had raped and sexually abused her over a period of many years. However, Ortega used his immunity as a National Assembly deputy and his control of the courts to ensure that the case never went to trial. Having ensured he would never face trial, Ortega then actively sabotaged all efforts by the Nicaraguan government to provide justice to Narvaez and used his mother and Rosario Murillo in a public relations campaign intended to bury the allegations.

¶7. (U) Such misogynistic attitudes are common in the FSLN, as is the tolerance of domestic and sexual violence. When FSLN National Assembly deputies voted to lower the criminal penalties for statutory rape in March 2006, FSLN deputy Nathan Sevilla justified the vote by stating that sex with minors was "normal" in rural Nicaragua and thus should not be considered a serious crime.

¶8. (SBU) Sources: personal testimony of Zoilamerica, legal documents filed by Zoilamerica in Nicaraguan institutions

(including the courts, the police and the office of the Human Rights Ombudsman) and the IACHR, media records of Ortega's "public relations" campaign using Rosario Murillo and his own mother.

Protection and Blackmail of Fellow Alleged Rapist Ricardo Mayorga

¶9. (U) In September 2004, boxer Ricardo Mayorga allegedly raped a young woman in a Managua hotel. Sensing an opportunity to blackmail Mayorga, Ortega and the FSLN agreed to protect the boxer in the courts if he would give the party a large portion of his international boxing winnings and "advertise" for Daniel in public. Mayorga agreed, and an FSLN judge found him not guilty in December. Much of Mayorga,s winnings now reportedly go to Ortega, and when Mayorga fought in Chicago in August 2005, he dedicated the fight to Daniel, wore the FSLN colors, and flashed the number of the FSLN slot on the Nicaraguan electoral ballot ("casilla") to the international media.

¶10. (SBU) Sources: media accounts of Mayorga,s arrest, trial, his public "pro-Daniel" comments and his August 2005 fight, private testimony offered by lawyers involved in the case, testimony of the rape victim.

Daniel Ortega a Thief like Aleman

¶11. (U) Property Confiscations: After the victory of the revolution in 1979, Daniel immediately confiscated the Managua residence of current National Assembly deputy Jaime Morales. Ortega subsequently stole other houses and property surrounding the Morales residence and created his own private compound on an entire block in downtown Managua.

¶12. (U) The Pinata Phenomenon: After the FSLN lost the election in 1990 but before it handed over power to Dona Violeta, Ortega supervised the theft of billions of dollars worth of land and state-owned companies that went to his

immediate family, Humberto Ortega and other prominent Sandinistas. Other companies involved in transportation, lumber, sugar mills, and slaughterhouses nominally went to the FSLN, but effectively ended up in the hands of Ortega, his family, and their closest associates.

¶13. (SBU) Sources: Nicaraguan government property records document the Pinata and the 1980s confiscations in great detail. Ortega still lives in the Morales house and occupies the entire block to this day. Testimony of those whose property was seized is also widely available and hundreds are registered with the U.S. Embassy. Other sources include State Department annual Human Rights Reports and complaints filed with the CPDH human rights organization.

Cover-up of Daniel,s Son,s Involvement in Fatal Car Accident - - - - -

¶14. (U) On December 11, 2005, a vehicle owned by the FSLN struck another vehicle and killed two young men in the early morning hours. Eyewitnesses reported that the person driving the FSLN vehicle was Rafael Ortega, Daniel,s son and the director of FSLN-owned Channel 4, but, in order to protect the Ortega family, the FSLN pulled a switch and claimed that another driver was behind the wheel. Police and Prosecutors, fearing Ortega,s power, refused to investigate the switch, denying justice to the families of the two victims using familiar Sandinista cover-up methods.

¶15. (SBU) Sources: media accounts of the accident and subsequent Sandinista cover-up efforts; the trial in which the FSLN and its judges covered up the issue of the real driver is also a matter of public record.

Ortega and Associates Suspected of Ordering Murder of Carlos Guadamuz - - - - -

¶16. (U) In February 2004, William Hurtado, an FSLN militant and former member of the Sandinista state security apparatus, shot and killed journalist and radio personality Carlos Guadamuz in Managua. A former Sandinista himself, Guadamuz had broken with Daniel Ortega and used his radio program to criticize Ortega, &Nicho8 Marenco, and other FSLN leaders on a wide range of issues, including Zoilamerica,s rape allegations against Ortega. Although the involvement of Daniel Ortega and Nicho Marenco in the Guadamuz murder was never proven in court, the killing was carried out in classic FSLN assassination-style and removed a thorn in the side of both men at a time when Marenco was running for Mayor of Managua.

¶17. (SBU) Sources: The falling out between Guadamuz and the FSLN and his media attacks on Ortega and Marenco are a matter of public record, as is Guadamuz,s complaint to the police that he believed the FSLN planned to murder him. It is also a known fact that Hurtado was a former member of the Sandinista State Security Directorate.

Contacts with Terrorists - - - - -

¶18. (U) Daniel Ortega has had close relations with numerous international terrorist groups for decades. During the 1980s, he invited international terrorists from Italy, Lebanon, Libya, the Palestinian territories, and Spain to come to Nicaragua to find safe haven and plan future terrorist operations. Many of these persons became Nicaraguan citizens. Since losing power in 1990, Ortega has continued to maintain his terrorist ties, and has publicly admitted receiving money from the government of Libya and other dubious sources for his subsequent presidential campaigns.

¶19. (U) In 1984 Daniel Ortega negotiated a deal with Colombian drug kingpin Pablo Escobar whereby Escobar received refuge for several months in Nicaragua after he had ordered

the killing of the Colombian Minister of Justice. At the same time, Escobar,s drug trafficking operation received Ortega,s approval to land and load airplanes in Nicaragua as they sought to ship cocaine to the United States. In return, Ortega and the FSLN received large cash payments from Escobar. Interior Minister Tomas Borge and his subordinates went so far as to assist Escobar with the loading and unloading of drugs onto his airplanes in Nicaragua. The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) managed to place a hidden camera on one of Escobar,s airplanes and obtained film of Escobar and Ministry of the Interior officials loading cocaine onto one of Escobar,s planes at Managua,s international airport. CBS news later broadcast the film and the entire story of Escobar-Ortega-FSLN collaboration is related in detail in a 2005 book by Astrid Legarda Martinez: El Verdadero Pablo: Sangre, Traicion y Muerte (Colombia, Ediciones Dipon).

¶20. (U) FSLN leaders, including Humberto Ortega, have admitted publicly that leaders of the Argentine leftist terrorist group "Los Montoneros" resided in Nicaragua and engaged in military activities with the FSLN for an extended period in 1979-1981. Humberto Ortega admitted that Fernando Vaca Narvaja, the leader of the group, resided in his house in Managua.

¶21. (SBU) Sources: Ortega has publicly admitted many of his terrorist connections, including the fact that he has received elections money from the government of Libya. Many 1980s terrorists still live in Nicaragua and have acquired Nicaraguan citizenship (including at least one prominent member of the Italian Red Brigades), Ortega publicly associated with many of these individuals in Nicaragua throughout the 1980s. The Pablo Escobar footage was filmed June 24, 1984.

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DANIEL ORTEGA AN...